



Forest Enhancement  
Society of British Columbia

Cariboo Regional District  
File No. 400-01

DEC 07 2021

Referred To CAO November 30, 2021

Dear Margo Wagner and Cariboo (Regional District) Directors,

Two of the priorities identified in the BC government's April 6, 2021 mandate letter to the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) were:

- To communicate how FESBC's projects successfully contribute to the Province's economic recovery, and
- To provide continued economic, social, and environmental benefits for British Columbia's forests, Indigenous peoples, and communities.

As of March 2021, FESBC has supported **269 forest enhancement projects** valued at \$237.6 million, generating **\$357 million in economic activity** in partnership with the Province of BC and the Government of Canada. Today, we share with you our Winter 2021 Accomplishments Update highlighting 62 of the FESBC-funded projects which are led by Indigenous peoples. We are also pleased to report that another 23 FESBC-funded projects involve Indigenous peoples working in partnership with forestry companies, community forests, municipalities, and industry. The collective value of these projects is approximately \$70 million.

These highlighted projects have facilitated the participation of Indigenous peoples in the forest economy and, through their leadership in these projects, they have a larger voice in the stewardship of the land for future generations. We are seeing Indigenous values and interests increasingly reflected in project outcomes. These projects are demonstrating approaches that **harmonize traditional and modern forestry practices** in community wildfire risk management, ensuring the wise utilization of wood fibre, increasing the opportunity to enhance the production of food sources from forests, and more.

We are very grateful to the many First Nations throughout British Columbia that have stepped forward to provide forest management leadership that has resulted in successfully delivering so many excellent projects.

Jim Snetsinger  
Chair, FESBC

To connect with our team for more information, please contact FESBC Executive Director Steve Kozuki at 250.819.2888 (cell) or [skozuki@fesbc.ca](mailto:skozuki@fesbc.ca)

(735) RD





## Winter 2021 Accomplishments Report

FESBC-Funded Projects  
Led By First Nations Partners



(L to R) Dave Conly, FESBC Operations Manager with Aaron Higginbottom, Williams Lake First Nation Senior Manager Natural Resources, and John Walker, Williams Lake First Nation Stewardship Forester at an on-site tour of the Williams Lake Community Forest.

### Indigenous Peoples Sharing Perspectives

With a deep connection to the land and a multi-generational perspective on sustainability, it is natural that Indigenous peoples throughout British Columbia have stepped up to lead so many projects that **protect communities from wildfire, enhance wildlife habitat, reduce greenhouse gases**, and more. Indigenous peoples have shown a desire to more fully participate in B.C.'s forest economy and funding from the Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) has accelerated this transition. All of these highlighted projects produce an array of environmental, economic, and social benefits. However, as these projects get implemented and completed, there is one social benefit emerging that was perhaps unexpected: **Indigenous people are sharing their perspectives about the inter-connectedness of everything in our world.** Traditional cost/benefit analyses tend to emphasize things that can be measured such as job creation, economic activity, animal populations, etc. Although social benefits may be difficult to quantify, they may be just as important.



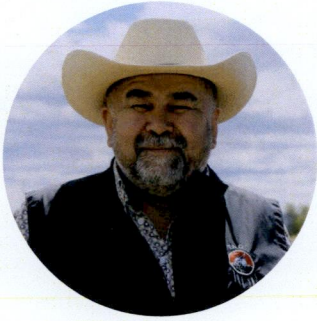
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### WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION

- 1 Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek Band)  
Assessing and developing fuel management treatments
- 2 Tšideldel (Alexis Creek First Nation) and Tl'etinqox (Anaham)  
Harvesting focused on low value stands to reduce wildfire risk
- 3 Shuswap Indian Band (Kenpesq't)  
Removing and pruning trees to reduce wildfire risk
- 4 Lílwat First Nation (Mount Currie Indian Band) and Squamish First Nation (Squamish)  
Creating a fuel break southwest of the Resort Municipality of Whistler
- 5 Williams Lake First Nation (T'exelc)  
Creating a fuel break along and adjacent to a large power line
- 6 Tsq'escenemc (Canim Lake Indian Band)  
Planning, prescriptions and treatments of priority interface fuel management polygons
- 7 ?Esdilagh First Nation (Alexandria Indian Band)  
Planning, layout and treatments for wildfire fuel breaks
- 8 Xaxli'p First Nation (Fountain Indian Band)  
Reducing wildfire risk through treatment activities on priority areas
- 9 Whispering Pines/Clinton First Nation (Pelltiq't)  
Reducing forest fuels to reduce the risk of wildfires to the community
- 10 ?Esdilagh First Nation (Alexandria Indian Band)  
Conducting wildfire risk assessments and doing a landscape level primary fuel break
- 11 Esketemc First Nation (Esk'etemc)  
Surveying areas to determine fuel management treatments
- 12 Syilx Okanagan Nation  
Fuel treatments to reduce wildfire risk

Learn how Indigenous peoples are leading forest enhancement projects throughout B.C.





"The people that arrived here in British Columbia, when they first looked at the forest, I tell people the forest was managed so well it looked untouched. Our people relied on that, and we want to get back to that."

Joe Alphonse | Chief, Tl'etinqox Government

—excerpt from the Climate Change Heroes video [bit.ly/ClimateChangeHeroes](https://bit.ly/ClimateChangeHeroes)

## Innovation and Collaboration in Forestry Led by First Nations

### Highlighting Central Chilcotin Rehabilitation

Central Chilcotin Rehabilitation (CCR) is a company created by Ts'ideldel and Tl'etinqox First Nations, two Indigenous communities who collaborated to specifically access funding from FESBC. CCR, which has since grown to be the second-largest recipient of FESBC funds, employs numerous band members to **enhance wildlife habitat**, **reduce wildfire risk** around their communities, and **rehabilitate and reforest** areas devastated by the 2017 mega-fires. CCR also utilizes waste wood that otherwise would have been slash-burned, thereby doing their part

to reduce greenhouse gases. More importantly, **CCR is a vehicle by which these Nations are leading collaborative forest management.**

While the Nations have provided contract services to the forest industry in the past and continue to do so today, they are now leading their own projects on the land and have a bigger voice in forest management decisions. When Nations are enabled to create forest companies and lead projects, the result is increased Indigenous participation in the forest economy.



**\$29**  
MILLION  
IN FESBC  
FUNDING

### Central Chilcotin Rehabilitation's Impact with FESBC Funding:



**516,000 = 8,600**

CUBIC METRES OF  
FIBRE RECOVERED

LOGGING  
TRUCKS



**4,000**

HECTARES OF LAND REPLANTED  
WITH 4.5 MILLION TREES





## FESBC-Funded Projects Led By First Nations Partners

### WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION, cont'd

- 13 Esketemc First Nation (Esk'etemc)**  
Treatments to reduce wildfire risk and enhance wildlife habitat
- 14 Tsq'escenemc (Canim Lake Indian Band)**  
Developing a landscape level plan for fuel breaks and fuel management
- 15 Esketemc First Nation (Esk'etemc)**  
Creating an emergency wildfire escape route for the community
- 16 Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek Band)**  
Expanding funding for planning, prescription development, and wildfire risk reduction treatments
- 17 Akisqnuq First Nation (Columbia Lake Indian Band)**  
Reducing forest fuels to reduce to the risk of wildfires to the Akisqnuq Reserve near Windermere and Fairmont Hot Springs
- 18 Xaxli'p First Nation (Fountain Indian Band)**  
Planning, prescriptions, and groundwork to improve wildlife habitat and reduce wildfire risk
- 19 Lower Nicola Indian Band**  
Developing prescriptions and carrying out wildfire risk reduction treatments
- 20 Nazko First Nation (Ndazkoh)**  
Planning wildfire risk reduction prescription development and treatment activities

- 21 Nazko First Nation (Ndazkoh)**  
Harvesting and removing beetle damaged trees to reduce wildfire risk and rehabilitate the land base
- 22 Lilwat First Nation (Mount Currie Indian Band) and Squamish First Nation (Squamish)**  
Working on a wildfire fuel break and a fibre recovery study
- 23 Syilx Okanagan Nation**  
Planning, prescriptions, and treatments for wildfire fuel reduction and fuel breaks
- 24 Tšideldel (Alexis Creek First Nation)**  
Developing prescriptions for wildfire fuel treatments
- 25 First Nations Emergency Services Society**  
First Nations Emergency Services Society assisting First Nations engage in wildfire risk reduction planning
- 26 Lilwat First Nation (Mount Currie Indian Band) and Squamish First Nation (Squamish)**  
Removing trees and surface/ladder fuels with delivery of the vegetation to a composting site
- 27 Williams Lake First Nation (T'exelc)**  
Treatments for a wildfire fuel break
- 28 Nazko First Nation (Ndazkoh)**  
Wildfire risk reduction planning, prescription development, and treatment activities

### FOREST CARBON

- 29 Tšideldel (Alexis Creek First Nation) and Tl'etinqox (Anaham)**  
Transporting uneconomic wood for biomass
- 30 Ulkatcho First Nation (Ulhk'acho)**  
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from pile burning by utilizing uneconomic wood
- 31 Esketemc First Nation (Esk'etemc)**  
Chipping of logging debris for biomass markets in Williams Lake
- 32 Ulkatcho First Nation (Ulhk'acho)**  
Utilizing uneconomic wood to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from pile burning
- 33 Kitasoo / Xai'xais—First Nation**  
Salvaging pulp logs from harvesting areas outside of the fibre recovery zone
- 34 Cheslatta Carrier Nation (Cheslatta T'En), Wet'suwet'en First Nation, Skin Tyee First Nation (Skin'S Tyee), Burns Lake Band (Ts'il Kaz Koh), Lake Babine Nation (Nataotin, Nat'oot'en Nation), and Nee-Tahi-Buhn (Francois Lake)**  
Grinding and transporting uneconomic residual fibre to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from pile burning
- 35 Cowichan Tribes (Quw'utsun)**  
Restoring riparian ecosystem to capture carbon over the mid to long term
- 36 Takla Lake First Nation**  
Transporting uneconomic wood/fibre to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from pile burning

FESBC has funded  
62 projects led by  
First Nations Partners  
plus another  
23 involving  
First Nations.



## FESBC-Funded Projects Led By First Nations Partners

### FOREST CARBON, cont'd

- 37 Wuikinuxv Nation (Oweekeno)**  
Delivering pulp logs historically left behind due to economic barriers
- 38 Haida Nation**  
Applying fertilizer by hand as a part of an old growth acceleration rehabilitation project
- 39 Lax-kw'alaams Band (Lax?gu'alaams)**  
Improving forest health and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by utilizing pulp fibre
- 40 Williams Lake First Nation (T'exelc)**  
Grinding and transporting of uneconomic fibre to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from pile burning and improve fibre utilization
- 41 T'sideldel (Alexis Creek First Nation) and Tl'etinqx (Anaham Band)**  
Transporting uneconomic residual wood to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from pile burning and improve fibre utilization
- 42 Esketemc First Nation (Esk'etemc)**  
Transporting uneconomic residual wood to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from pile burning and improve fibre utilization
- 43 Haida Nation**  
Transporting uneconomic wood to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve fibre utilization

### STAND REHABILITATION

- 44 T'sideldel (Alexis Creek First Nation) and Tl'etinqx (Anaham)**  
Planning, harvesting, and planting in high burn intensity interior Douglas-fir stands
- 45 Cheslatta Carrier Nation (Cheslatta T'En)**  
Rehabilitating uneconomic, mature stands heavily damaged by wildfires
- 46 Toosey First Nation (Tl'esqox) and Yunesit'in Government (Stone, Stoney)**  
Preparing sites for reforestation in uneconomic areas with low volume recovery
- 47 Skeetchestn Indian Band (Deadman's Creek)**  
Restoring riparian areas in the Deadman River watershed
- 48 Nazko First Nation (Ndazkoh)**  
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from pile burning by using residual fibre
- 49 Westbank First Nation**  
Planning for a multi-phase project to remove hazard trees, plant trees, and restore mule deer winter range

- 50 Yunesit'in Government (Stone, Stoney)**  
Utilizing residual fibre resulting from reforestation in uneconomic areas
- 51 Williams Lake First Nation (T'exelc)**  
Removing low quality and diseased trees to maximize tree growth and make them more resilient
- 52 Wet'suwet'en First Nation**  
Developing a strategic wildfire hazard mitigation plan for the Wetzin'kwa Community Forest
- 53 Nazko First Nation (Ndazkoh)**  
Transporting of uneconomic residual fibre to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve fibre utilization

### WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

- 54 Esketemc First Nation (Esk'etemc)**  
Restoring Mule Deer winter range habitat
- 55 Bonaparte Indian Band (St'uxwtews)**  
Removing, piling, and burning woody debris to enhance critical deer winter range
- 56 Haida Nation**  
Restore natural stream flow patterns and wildlife habitat
- 57 SnPink'tn (Penticton Indian Band)**  
Re-establishing ecological diversity, resiliency, and ungulate habitat using prescribed fire equivalent to the natural fire regime
- 58 Esketemc First Nation (Esk'etemc)**  
Surveying, planning, and prescriptions for mule deer winter range habitat improvement
- 59 Ts'il Kaz Koh First Nation, Wet'suwet'en First Nation, and the Office of the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs**  
Planning, layout and treatments to create a fire break in the Burns Lake Community Forest
- 60 SnPink'tn (Penticton Indian Band)**  
Using prescribed fire equivalent to the natural fire regime to reduce overall wildfire risk

- 61 Haida Nation**  
Spacing and pruning treatments to improve Haida Gwaii Goshawk forage territory

### FIBRE RECOVERY

- 62 Kitselas First Nation (Gitselasu) and Kitsumkalum First Nation (Gitsmgeelm)**  
Delivering uneconomic pulp logs for the grinding of chips



### A Message from FESBC Board Chair

## JIM SNETSINGER

Thank you for reading the FESBC Winter 2021 Accomplishments Update which highlights Indigenous peoples' participation in numerous projects that have made a significant contribution to the provincial forest economy. The FESBC Board of Directors is thrilled by the incredible ability of these First Nations to **foster collaboration and innovation** across the forest sector, and on behalf of all British Columbians, we thank them for their hard work and collaboration.



### Learn More

If you'd like to learn more about the Forest Enhancement Society of BC and how people in British Columbia's forests are helping create climate change solutions, reduce wildfire risk, and keep workers employed through our funded projects, connect with us!

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